

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06  
AID-05 EB-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01 IO-13 /088 W  
-----002765 161233Z /10

R 160500Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9875  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR  
AMEMBASSY MANILA  
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 1232

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PDIP, SN, ASEAN, TH  
SUBJ: COMMENTS BY THAI AMBASSADOR ON PRIME MINISTER KRIANGSAK'S  
VISIT TO SINGAPORE

REFS: A) SINGAPORE 0702; B) SINGAPORE 1125

1. I LUNCHEDED WITH THAI AMBASSADOR JETN MARCH 14 TO  
OBTAIN READING FROM HIM ON OUTCOME OF PRIME MINISTER  
KRIANGSAK'S VISIT TO SINGAPORE. IN GENERAL, HIS  
COMMENTS FOLLOWED ALONG LINES OF REFTEL B AND DID  
NOT ADD APPRECIABLY TO WHAT WE HAD ALREADY LEARNED  
ABOUT VISIT FROM OTHER SOURCES. ACCORDING TO JETN,  
DISCUSSIONS AT WHICH HE WAS PRESENT FOCUSSED PRIMARILY  
ON ECONOMIC MATTERS; SPECIFICALLY ON WHAT SINGAPORE MIGHT  
DO TO HELP THAILAND OUT IN ECONOMIC SPHERE AND HENCE  
BOLSTER KRIANGSAK'S POSITION. IN FACT, JETN SAID,  
MAIN ACHIEVEMENT OF KRIANGSAK'S SWING THROUGH ASEAN  
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COUNTRIES WAS EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS OF ALL KRIANGSAK'S  
FELLOW LEADERS TO BE HELPFUL IN THIS REGARD.

2. JETN NOTED THAT AGREEMENT ON FACILITATING FLOW  
OF SKILLED THAI CONSTRUCTION WORKERS TO SINGAPORE  
(REFTEL B) WAS SOMETHING THAT HAD CAUGHT HIM BY  
SURPRISE. SUBJECT WAS NOT ONE ON WHICH HE HAD PREPARED

BRIEFING PAPER FOR KRIANGSAK. WE SPECULATED THAT CONCEPT MIGHT HAVE BEEN LEE KUAN YEW'S, GIVEN LEE'S CONCERN OVER ALLEVIATING "POCKETS OF POVERTY" IN THAILAND, PARTICULARLY IN BANGKOK AREA. JETN ADDED THAT THAI PRESS HAD ALREADY BEEN CRITICAL OF THIS AGREEMENT, SAYING THAT IT WOULD NOT BE IN INTERESTS OF THAILAND TO SEND SKILLED LABOR NEEDED FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT TO SOME OTHER COUNTRY.

3. JETN OBSERVED THAT NO ONE FROM EITHER SIDE HAD BEEN PRESENT DURING PRIVATE MEETINGS BETWEEN LEE KUAN YEW AND KRIANGSAK, AND HENCE NOBODY KNEW WHAT HAD BEEN DISCUSSED. JETN HAD BEEN STRUCK DURING MEETINGS ATTENDED BY FULL DELEGATIONS BY WAY THAT LEE KUAN YEW DOMINATED PROCEEDINGS ON SINGAPORE SIDE. QUESTIONS FAISED BY ONE OR ANOTHER OF THAI MINISTERS WERE INVARIABLY ANSWERED BY LEE PERSONALLY REGARDLESS OF SUBJECT. INDEED, ALTHOUGH ECONOMIC MATTERS FIGURED IMPORTANTLY, AS NOTED ABOVE, NEITHER FINANCE MINISTER HON SUI SEN NOR HIS DEPUTY GOH CHOK TONG WERE PRESENT, BOTH BEING INVOLVED IN PREPARATIONS FOR PRESENTATION OF BUDGET TO PARLIAMENT. THIS LEFT DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER (AND DEFENSE MINISTER) GOH KENG SWEE AND FOREIGN MINISTER RAJARATNAM AS MOST IMPORTANT FIGURES ON SINGAPORE DELEGATION NEXT TO LEE.

4. DESPITE JETN'S REMARKS TO ME PRIOR TO KRIANGSAK  
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VISIT THAT ONE OF MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED WAS THAI-SINGAPORE DEFENSE COOPERATION, HE MAINTAINED THAT SUBJECT HAD NOT ARISEN DURING MEETINGS AT WHICH HE HAD BEEN PRESENT. HE MENTIONED, HOWEVER, THAT HE HAD ARRANGED FOR KRIANGSAK TO VISIT FACTORY ENGAGED IN MANUFACTURE OF MILITARY ITEMS FOR THAILAND UNDER THAI-SINGAPORE CO-PRODUCTION AGREEMENT. (COMMENT: IT HARDLY SEEMS LIKELY THAT DEFENSE AND SECURITY-RELATED ISSUES WERE NOT TOUCHED ON DURING KRIANGSAK VISIT. PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN LEE AND KRIANGSAK MAY HAVE COVERED THESE FIELDS, OR CONCEIVABLY MEMBERS OF KRIANGSAK'S DELEGATION SUCH AS GENERALS YOT AND PREM MAY HAVE DEALT WITH THEM IN SEPARATE DISCUSSIONS WITH GOH KENG SWEE.)

5. APROPOS OF GENERALS YOT AND PREM, JETN MAINTAINED THAT THEY ARE BOTH FULLY SUPPORTIVE OF KRIANGSAK. HE FELT THIS MEANT THAT KRIANGSAK'S RELATIONS WITH THE THAI MILITARY WOULD BE GENERALLY FAVORABLE.  
HOLDRIDGE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PDIP, SN, TH, ASEAN, (KRIANGSAK CHAMANAN)  
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